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PROGRAMME QUESTIONS: PROGRAMME OBJECTIVES AND PLANNING

Plans of the international organizations in the area of statistics

Report of the Secretary-General

SUMMARY

The present report provides updated information on the future activities in statistics of the organizations of the United Nations system and of several international organizations outside the system. Only important planned changes in the activities of the organizations are presented, that is, new activities, activities to be cancelled and activities to be modified significantly.

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INTRODUCTION

1. The present report provides the Commission with a summary of the future plans in statistics of the organizations of the United Nations system and several international organizations outside the system.

2. The report is of necessity selective in coverage owing to the strict page limitation for sessional documents. For most of the organizations, the plan periods vary. In the case of the Statistical Division of the United Nations Secretariat (UNSTAT), the medium-term plan for 1992-1997 (A/45/6 (Prog. 24)) and the proposed revisions to the medium-term plan for 1992-1997 (A/47/6 (Prog. 24)) are available to the Commission. Additional information on the plans of organizations is contained in other reports also before the Commission. New activities and activities that have been cancelled or modified significantly are presented. Routine, continuing activities, such as the issuance of recurrent publications, and other activities that have not changed since the twenty-sixth session of the Commission are in general not reported.

3. In the light of the fact that the statistics portion of the United Nations medium-term plan and the proposed revisions are available to the Commission, a full presentation of the plans for UNSTAT is not presented in this report. Instead, under each subject heading, references are given to various relevant documents before the Commission which supplement what is discussed in the documents containing the medium-term plan and the revisions to it.

4. The following organs, organizations and agencies have been included in this report: Statistical Division of the United Nations Secretariat (UNSTAT), Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD), United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) (UNCHS), International Labour Organisation (ILO), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), World Health Organization (WHO), World Bank, International Monetary Fund (IMF), Universal Postal Union (UPU), World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), Statistical Office of the European Communities (EUROSTAT), World Tourism Organization (WTO), Inter-American Statistical Institute (IASI).

5. The report has been structured on a subject-matter basis as requested by the Working Group on International Statistical Programmes and Coordination at its fifteenth session (see E/CN.3/1993/21, annex II, para. 45). The classification used is the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC)

Programme Classification, which is broadly in use in the United Nations system for reporting on programmes on a system-wide basis. The information that had been provided by organizations for the present report when it was intended to be structured on an organization basis was used and rearranged. Some difficulties in classification and in reflecting broad general statements by organizations were met. Decisions were made on a pragmatic basis.

6. The decisions were as follows:

(a) In general, each item of information was placed in one item of the classification only. Some exceptions were made to improve clarity. For example, some ILO items were placed in labour and population, labour and income and labour and prices. Environmental accounts information was placed under national accounts and environment. Activities relating to measurement of women's contribution were placed under women and national accounts. Some FAO activities were placed under agriculture and trade.

(b) The text under each classification item was structured by organization in a fixed organization order.

(c) Multi-subject items such as statistical yearbooks were placed under "Other statistics, n.e.c.".

(d) All seminars, workshops, household surveys, and training and technical cooperation missions were placed under "Statistical capacity-building and training", except where it was clear that a seminar or workshop was aimed at methodological development, in which case it was placed under the subject-matter heading. In some cases, the objective was not clear and the item was included under "Statistical capacity-building and training". All technical cooperation activities were placed under "Statistical capacity-building and training" and not under the particular subject-matter. Meetings of regional conferences of statisticians, governing statistical bodies of specialized agencies and other similar meetings were also included under "Statistical capacity-building and training". The entire section was structured according to the fixed organization order.

(e) Outputs and activities related to individual commodities, covering mixed data such as trade, production, prices and consumption, were placed under "Other economic statistics".

(f) Population and housing censuses were placed under "Population".

7. Three special groupings were created for the functional areas of "Classifications", "Technological developments and databases" and "Coordination". This was done generally by duplicating notable information from the subject-matter entries, which gives an indication of the activities carried out in those three areas of work that are known to be of interest to the Commission.

8. The report is selective, providing information on those plans that organizations considered the most important in their overall work during the period covered. It does not provide a comprehensive statement of plans under each heading.

9. Improvements can be made in the report to be submitted to the Commission at its twenty-eighth session based on comments made at the present session and through discussions in the ACC Subcommittee on Statistical Activities and the Working Group.

I. SUMMARY OF PLANS IN SELECTED AREAS OF STATISTICS

A. Demographic and social statistics

1. Population

UNSTAT

10. For the future plans of UNSTAT in this area, see the report of the Secretary-General on demographic and social statistics, including statistics on the advancement of women (E/CN.3/1993/12).

ECE

11. The Conference of European Statisticians has recognized the importance of migration statistics.

ECA

12. The Commission's activities will include the preparation and development of technical publications and guidelines on concepts, definitions and classifications used in population censuses and demographic surveys in Africa.

ILO

13. In the Statistical Sources and Methods series, a revised edition of volume 5 on population will be issued. The fourth round of the ILO estimation and projection of the economically active population will be undertaken using new methodologies and new forms of data presentation, with built-in provision for frequent updating. The programme is part of a collective effort by several United Nations bodies (United Nations, FAO, UNESCO and ILO) to prepare world estimates and projections of population-related topics. ILO will establish special databases, which will be used to provide information about certain labour issues, for example, the economic activity of children.

2. Housing

UNSTAT

14. For the future plans of UNSTAT in this area, see the report of the Secretary-General on demographic and social statistics, including statistics on the advancement of women (E/CN.3/1993/12).

UNHCS

15. Data from the human settlements questionnaire (see E/CN.3/1993/12, para. 38) will form the main source for the Statistical Annex to the second Global Report on Human Settlements, to be published by UNHCS by the end of 1995. Another important source for the Statistical Annex will be city/urban-level data compiled under the City Data Programme (CDP). CDP will also produce a number of wall charts for wide dissemination, featuring pressing urban problems in selected groups of cities.

16. The Centre will continue its statistical work on the monitoring of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000 (GSS) by field-testing the core indicators and by continuously reviewing the methodology. Similarly, as part of the Kenya Pilot Project (KPP) activities, the city data questionnaire will be reviewed in the light of test results, and a sample survey will be developed for the collection of data not covered by existing data-collection instruments. In connection with the establishment of a global city/urban data-collection system, the Centre commenced collaboration with the Network of Urban Research in the European Community (NUREC), the International Statistical Institute (ISI) and the International Union of Local Authorities (IULA). A subset of the city data questionnaire is planned to be sent to all cities above 100,000 population to collect data for a new edition of the Statistical Yearbook of Large Towns.

17. In the area of statistical database development, the Centre will revise HSDB.stat release 2.0, taking into account the newest user interface and database technologies. The new database software will also have improved file down-loading capabilities and footnote handling. The work on HSDB.stat release 3.0 should be finalized by the end of 1993. Around the same time, software development for UNCHS-CitiBase will have reached the stage of beta-version testing.

3. Labour

ECLAC

18. Studies will be carried out on labour. ECLAC will collaborate with the investigations of the Regional Employment Programme for Latin America and the Caribbean (PREALC).

ILO

19. For the future plans of ILO, see the report of the International Labour Office on the revision of the International Classification of Status in Employment (ICSE) (E/CN.3/1993/8). Also, in preparation for the next International Conference of Labour Statisticians (ICLS), to be held possibly in 1997 or 1998, it is proposed to examine national practices and conduct preliminary analyses for future standards on the measurement of income from employment, working time and underemployment, as well as the labour accounting system, occupational injuries and diseases and the statistical use of administrative records.

20. Income from employment and working time. The coverage of the present ILO standards on statistics of wages and hours of work is limited to paid employment (wage-earners and salaried employees). The 1990 ICLS resolution concerning self-employment promotion, as well as the work carried out on statistics of income from employment and of absence from work for the Fifteenth ICLS, have underlined the need to re-examine and extend the existing guidelines, so as to be relevant for the entire employed labour force and consistent with the system of labour statistics.

21. Underemployment. The international standards on underemployment statistics have proved inadequate and difficult to apply. They should be revised in the light of new methods that have been developed in certain countries. The revision is particularly necessary given the needs of countries in transition from centrally controlled to market economies. In addition, there is the continuing need for developing countries to supplement their employment and unemployment statistics with data on underemployment in order to adequately reflect their labour market situation.

22. Labour accounting system. Up to the present time, most labour statistics have been established on a topic basis. Their development is now well advanced, and it would be desirable to integrate them into a whole, particularly with regard to the core topics of employment, income from employment and working time. A tool for such integration is a labour accounting system. It is proposed to continue this work with the specific objective of formulating the core elements of the system in a form that can be quantified on an experimental basis in a selected number of countries.

23. Occupational injuries and diseases. During the past decade, the need for better national statistics on occupational injuries and diseases has been highlighted by industrial committees in a number of conclusions and resolutions, as well as by international organizations. Information on occupational injuries and diseases is one of the basic set of labour statistics at the heart of the Labour Statistics Convention, 1985 (No. 160) and it is important that the latest guidelines established under the auspices of ILO (article 2) should be as useful as current statistical knowledge and techniques permit. It is therefore proposed to begin work during 1994-1995 on reviewing the present guidelines, with a view to making proposals for consideration by a future ICLS.

24. Statistical use of labour-related administrative records. Among the three main sources of labour statistics, ILO has been prominent in the development of surveys of households or individuals (e.g., labour force surveys) and of enterprises or establishments (e.g., employment and earnings surveys). Administrative records, the third main source of labour statistics, have not received the same amount of attention in developmental work. It is proposed to examine a wide range of labour-related administrative record systems, with a view to determining the feasibility of establishing future international standards for their statistical use.

25. In the Statistical Sources and Methods series, a revised edition of volume 2, on wages expanded to encompass labour cost, will be issued and work will start on another volume, covering the ILO October Inquiry on occupational wages and hours of work.

26. The Bureau will expand its activities aimed at overcoming data gaps and the heterogeneity of national series by producing internationally comparable estimates, thus reinforcing the analytical capability of the Office as a whole. The current work to produce and publish annual series of employment and unemployment estimates in a standardized format will continue. Similarly, work will begin on the production of internationally comparable estimates of strikes and lock-outs, occupational wages, real wages and labour cost.

27. Special databases. The lack of data on a number of topics of concern to member States has led the Bureau to take remedial action by establishing special databases which, though not yet part of the ILO regular information dissemination programme, will be used to provide information about certain labour issues, for example, household income and expenditure, level of education of the labour force, statutory minimum wages, public sector employment, trade union membership, informal sector employment, and economic activity of children.

28. A meeting of experts on labour statistics will be organized early in 1995 on measurement of underemployment, one of the topics considered for the Sixteenth ICLS, to be held in 1997 or 1998. It has long been recognized that it is necessary to be able to measure underemployment in addition to employment and unemployment in order to adequately reflect the labour market situation, particularly in the developing countries and in the countries in transition from centrally controlled to market economies, as well as in countries with high-income market economies. This concern is reflected in the resolution adopted by the Thirteenth ICLS, in 1982, on the economically active population, employment, unemployment and underemployment. The guidelines for the measurement of underemployment have proved to be inadequate and difficult to apply. Promising new methods for such measurements have recently been developed, based on the concept of income inadequacy. The meeting of experts, including representatives of the social partners, will examine these developments to provide a basis for a draft resolution to be presented to ICLS.

29. Should additional resources become available, the Bureau will undertake the following activities:

Productivity. An effort will be made to provide a sound framework for developing productivity measures, the elaboration of which is advocated in Labour Statistics Recommendation, 1985 (No. 170) and given high priority in the resolution concerning statistics of productivity adopted by the International Labour Conference (ILC) at its seventy-first session, in 1985. This should lead to guidelines concerning concepts, definitions and methodologies for the preparation of statistics of productivity.

30. Modernization of data-collection and dissemination systems. The main statistical database, LABORSTA, originally established in 1979, needs to be updated in order to become more user-friendly and more easily accessible. These databases, as well as all the relevant computer applications, need to be converted to the most recent version of the Statistical Analysis System (SAS), which has evolved from a purely statistical software into a database management system. Similarly, the methodological information currently stored for the Statistical Sources and Methods series should be converted from a data bank to a database, which could be used for dissemination of the texts.

4. Education

ILO

31. ILO will establish special databases that will be used to provide information about certain labour issues, for example, the level of education of the labour force.

UNESCO

32. Activities will aim at refining and updating methodologies that may be concerned with, for example, terminology, measurement, data identification, collection and processing. Manuals and guides will be brought up to date or prepared, while special efforts will be made to ensure wider application and implementation of UNESCO standard-setting instruments, concerning the international collection of statistics.

33. During the first phase of the plan, investigations will be undertaken on research and development in higher education. During the second phase, in-depth surveys and studies to assess literacy levels and the practice of languages and sports will be envisaged, while statistical work regarding adult education and lifelong training of scientists and engineers will be begun during the third phase.

5. Culture and mass communication

UNESCO

34. For a summary of the future plans of UNESCO in this area, see paragraph 32 above. Also during the first phase of the plan, investigations will be undertaken to identify and quantify additional key data on cultural industries.

6. Health

WHO

35. The new directions for statistical activities in the health field will be to support the new paradigm for public health action. In essence, this new paradigm will seek to accelerate the achievement of health for all member States and thus health for all people in the world during all phases of their life cycles. The following statistical activities will therefore be given the highest priorities.

36. Using a common framework, WHO will assist member States to carry out the third monitoring of the implementation of their health-for-all strategies in 1994. The third global monitoring report will be prepared by the WHO secretariat on the basis of national reports, regional syntheses and findings from in-depth analyses and selective studies. It is expected that this monitoring process will also serve as input for the mid-term review of the achievement of the goals of the World Summit for Children.

37. To allow for a more reliable analysis of the interrelationships between health and other related sectors the development of effective procedures and mechanisms for initiating and establishing databases on morbidity, human resources for health, health-care facilities and disability will be pursued.

38. With the introduction of the Tenth Revision of the International Classification of Diseases (ICD-10) in January 1993, WHO will provide advice, guidelines and training courses in its use to member States, and technical support for the preparation of national language versions. Specialists and non-governmental organizations will be supported in preparing special applications based on ICD-10. Member States will be supported in the application of the International Classification of Impairments, Disabilities and Handicaps (ICIDH), which will be revised in 1993.

39. Improved dissemination of data compiled by WHO will be a major activity. The mortality database and other relevant databases maintained by WHO technical programmes will be made available to member States through electronic media to allow direct access to publishable information.

40. Health indicator development will continue to receive a high priority. With the greater realization that the health status of a population is an important aspect of monitoring development, the measurement of health status

is crucial. Therefore, the development of appropriate indicators and the statistical methods required to obtain them will be actively pursued.

41. To review and generate ideas for future trend assessment and future research for health development WHO will conduct a global health futures consultation in 1993.

7. Distribution of income and consumption

ECE

42. It is currently envisaged that high priority will be given to the development of internationally comparable household income statistics.

ECLAC

43. Studies will be carried out on estimates of income distribution.

ILO

44. ILO will establish special databases, which will be used to provide information about certain labour issues, for example, household income and expenditure.

8. Poverty monitoring

UNSTAT

45. For the future plans of UNSTAT in this area, see joint reports of the Secretary-General and the World Bank on progress made in the National Household Survey Capability Programme (NHSCP), the Social Dimensions of Adjustment (SDA) Programme and the Living Standards Measurement Study (LSMS) (E/CN.3/1993/18) and on issues relating to the National Household Survey Capability Programme (NHSCP), the Social Dimensions of Adjustment (SDA) Programme and the Living Standards Measurement Study (LSMS) (E/CN.3/1993/19) and the report of the Secretary-General on the programme to monitor the achievement of social goals in the 1990s and related methodological work (E/CN.3/1993/20).

ESCAP

46. Some reorientation will be introduced in the subprogramme to give attention to the priority statistical needs of the work programme relating to poverty alleviation. Greater efforts for the measurement of living standards at the micro level will be reflected in the secretariat's activities.

ECLAC

47. Studies will be carried out on poverty situations.

UNCTAD

48. Pursuant to the decision taken by UNCTAD at its eighth session to create a standing committee on poverty alleviation and on developing the services sector, an intensive effort will be devoted to the review of existing poverty indicators.

UNRISD

49. For the Institute's future plans in this area, see the report of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development on the patterns of consumption and qualitative aspects of development (E/CN.3/1993/16).

ILO

50. Should additional resources become available, the Bureau will undertake the following activities on measurement of the poverty level. While the measurement of poverty does not in any way contribute to its eradication, it is an indispensable instrument for formulating policies and monitoring their effects (often difficult to detect simply by guessing) and for identifying the priority groups (which may not always be those that are commonly thought to be). Draft standards will be developed on techniques for determining poverty lines at the national level, which would activate and assist national statistical agencies in defining country-specific poverty lines and in compiling poverty indicators for the country and its regions.

World Bank

51. In pursuit of the Bank's goals for poverty reduction, the Bank will continue to stress the need for data collection through integrated household surveys and the analysis of such data with a strong policy orientation.

9. Role of women

UNSTAT

52. For future plans in this area, see the report of the Secretary-General on demographic and social statistics, including statistics on the advancement of women (E/CN.3/1993/12).

ECE

53. The Conference has recognized the importance of statistics on women.

10. Other social, demographic and related statistics

UNSTAT

54. For future plans in this area, see the report of the Secretary-General on demographic and social statistics, including statistics on the advancement of women (E/CN.3/1993/12).

ECE

55. The Conference has recognized the importance of selected fields of social and demographic statistics (e.g., statistics on women and migration statistics) and, at its forthcoming plenary session, is expected to consider possibilities for increasing the priority status of its work on social and demographic statistics.

ESCAP

56. Increasing concern with the qualitative aspects of development, including social justice, will be reflected in the secretariat's activities.

ECLAC

57. Studies will be carried out on social indicators. Likewise, annual reports on the evolution of the social situation in Latin America and the Caribbean will be issued. Work on statistical methods and techniques for the measurement of living conditions will be continued.

ECA

58. Activities will include the issuance of printouts on social statistics and demographic statistics and technical publications on the application and analysis of household survey data relevant to the African region.

ESCWA

59. A series of studies on social statistics in the ESCWA region will be prepared during the period 1994-1997 for the assessment of the present situation of these statistics and their future orientation.

B. Economic statistics

1. Agriculture

ECE

60. The development of statistics of agricultural activities is currently envisaged to be given high priority.

FAO

61. Emphasis will be given to the full development of the FAO World Agricultural Information Centre, which will provide statistics of acceptable quality to users inside and outside FAO. This will take into consideration development in modern dissemination technology, comprehensive identification of users' data needs and an in-depth appraisal of the quality and timeliness of the statistical information to be stored and retrieved by users.

62. Efforts to encourage the developing countries to carry out their census of agriculture within the framework of the FAO Programme for the 1990 World Census of Agriculture will be intensified. Improved frames for agricultural censuses and surveys and use of a network of microcomputers will be considered to improve data quality and timeliness. With improvement in the financial situation, the following activities will be continued: development of a personal computer-based data processing system, publication of the long-term series on per capita crop and livestock production and of the FAO statistical pocketbooks, average food balance sheets, manuals on livestock statistics, sampling techniques, land use statistics, and agricultural census methodology. Environment statistics related to agriculture will be a new programme element. However, owing to the financial situation in FAO, activities such as trade flow statistics by origin and destination (trade matrices), animal feed balances, statistics on marketing costs and margins, application of remote sensing for land use statistics and publication of the Sixth World Food Survey will be postponed after 1993.

EUROSTAT

63. The reform of two major areas of Community funding, the Common Agricultural Policy and the structural funds, will necessitate improved monitoring systems for agricultural and regional statistics, respectively.

2. Industrial statistics

UNSTAT

64. For future plans in this area, see report of the Secretary-General on the World Programme of Industrial Statistics (E/CN.3/1993/9).

UNIDO

65. The programme of statistical work calls for relatively few additions or major changes in the period 1992-1993. Minor changes in orientation of priority include the following:

(a) The collection of detailed information in order to improve international comparability and timeliness;

(b) Expansion of collection activities to include both official and unofficial information which can serve as investment guides and for monitoring industrial operations;

(c) Dissemination of results through recurrent publications and external distribution of industrial statistics in machine-readable form;

(d) Improvement of data service functions. To better fulfil service-related functions, UNIDO plans to develop a more effective support system for data users.

EUROSTAT

66. The operation of the Single Market will necessitate the extensive development of statistics in the field of manufacturing in order to ensure a transparent understanding of the market.

3. Energy

UNSTAT

67. For future plans in this area, see report of the Secretary-General on the general development and integration of methodological work (E/CN.3/1993/15).

IAEA

68. The Agency collects, processes and distributes statistics whenever necessary for the execution of its programmes. As part of its research and isotopes programme, IAEA maintains statistics on nuclear physics and on research reactor utilization for distribution to member States. As part of its nuclear energy programme, statistics are maintained on nuclear power plant operations and energy economics. As part of its nuclear safety programme, statistics are maintained on incidents at nuclear power stations. No new areas of statistical collection are planned. Emphasis in the immediate future will be on providing more comprehensive statistics in a more flexible manner (in some cases machine-readable) to member States.

4. Services

UNSTAT

69. for future plans in this area, see report of the Secretary-General on service statistics (E/CN.3/1993/10).

ESCAP

70. Among the Commission's newer areas of work will be the development of service statistics.

UNCTAD

71. Pursuant to the decision taken by UNCTAD at its eighth session to create a standing committee on poverty alleviation and on developing the services sector, an intensive effort will be devoted to the review of ways of improving statistics in services.

GATT

72. The GATT Data Base on International Trade in Services uses information from the International Monetary Fund, the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, the International Labour Office, UNSTAT and national sources. Efforts will concentrate on improving coverage in terms of both economic series and country detail, as well as improving the comparability of data.

EUROSTAT

73. The operation of the Single Market will necessitate the extensive development of statistics in the field of services in order to ensure a transparent understanding of the market.

5. International trade

UNSTAT

74. For future plans in this area, see report of the Secretary-General on the general development and integration of methodological work (E/CN.3/1993/15) and the joint report prepared by the Secretary-General of the United Nations and GATT concerning the future relationship between the SITC and the HS (E/CN.3/1993/15/Add.1).

UNCTAD

75. For the purpose of the General System of Preferences and multilateral trade negotiations, foreign trade data from developing countries are needed at a detailed level, preferably at the tariff-line level or in terms of the

Harmonized System. Improvement of quality and coverage of international trade statistics continue to be an area of particular interest to UNCTAD. This is also secured via the ASYCUDA project (Automated System for Customs Data).

FAO

76. Owing to the financial situation in FAO, activities such as trade flow statistics by origin and destination (trade matrices) will be postponed after 1993.

World Bank

77. Working in close collaboration with GATT, UNCTAD, IMF, OECD, EUROSTAT and UNSTAT, an effort will be made to upgrade the quality of external trade data through the incorporation of estimates into the COMTRADE system.

GATT

78. Between the present time and 1994, emphasis will be on the data required to produce tariff assessments of proposals under the current round of negotiations, on evaluating the overall results at the conclusion of the negotiations and on meeting the internal needs of GATT.

79. A project of major importance continues to be the Integrated Data Base (IDB). Although its progress was somewhat hampered by the development of trade negotiations files to assist the negotiations under way, a good portion of the systems analysis, programming and testing has been completed. The IDB will contain tariff-line data on imports, tariffs and quantitative restrictions. The tariff lines will be based on the Harmonized System. Over time, it is expected that the IDB will be expanded to include exports and other categories of non-tariff measures.

80. Continued support will be given, in collaboration with other international organizations, to studies in methodology regarding international trade statistics and related subjects and to improving the quality of data.

EUROSTAT

81. In 1993, internal customs formalities in the European Community will be abolished. The new method of recording trade in goods between member States, which relies on returns from businesses, comes into effect at the beginning of the year.

6. Transport

UNSTAT

82. For future plans in this area, see report of the Secretary-General on the general development and integration of methodological work (E/CN.3/1993/15).

ICAO

83. While discharging the primary task of collecting and publishing civil aviation statistics world wide, three major initiatives are planned by the Organization for the next triennium:

(a) Intensification of efforts to further the coordination and harmonization of aviation statistics work at the international and regional levels, including the issue of joint publications in this field. To this end, more frequent consultations are planned with airlines and airport organizations (e. g., International Air Transport Association and Airports Association Council International), with regional civil aviation bodies (e.g., African Civil Aviation Commission, European Civil Aviation Conference and Latin American Civil Aviation Commission), and with regional bodies such as the European Community;

(b) Development of automation in the transmission of statistical material among the providers of input data, the secretariat, and the recipients of the processed statistics. Greater attention will also be given to improved productivity and quality control through further automation of data processing.

7. Communication and tourism

UPU

84. Statistical activities at UPU have the following broad objectives:

(a) To systematically record data on postal traffic volumes so as to deduce general trends and make extrapolations for the future;

(b) To collect information on staffing patterns and volumes, financial operating performance, performance of the postal financial services, technical means etc. of UPU member countries;

(c) To determine and quantify the level of services available to the public;

(d) To determine the evolution of the postal services in general over a period of time;

(e) To promote the use of statistics by postal administrations as an effective instrument for managing and planning their services.

85. At UPU headquarters, statistical work is based on data received from Governments in response to an annual questionnaire. After verification and computation, this data is published in the Postal Services Statistical Yearbook. Reflecting the concern of some member countries, a study is now under way to further simplify and rationalize the structure of these statistics. A five-yearly report on the development of the postal services (covering the period 1987-1991) will be published in 1993/94.

86. Further, given the general demand on the part of UPU member countries, it has been decided to install a computerized database at UPU headquarters. A relational database using ORACLE/SQL is proposed to be established on the recently acquired VAX 4000-200 computer system. This base will contain information on various postal statistics and indicators and will be open to the outside. The database is expected to be operational during the course of 1993.

WTO

87. For future plans of WTO, see report of the World Tourism Organization on draft recommendations on tourism statistics (E/CN.3/1993/14).

8. Money and banking, interest rates and other private finance, public sector finance, balance of payments and external debt, exchange rates and capital flows

World Bank

88. The Bank's Debtor Reporting System will continue to be strengthened.

IMF

89. The Statistics Department of the Fund has commenced work on a Manual on Financial Statistics. An outline of the manual was scheduled to be completed by the end of 1992.

90. In association with the work on the System of National Accounts (SNA), the Fund will continue its work during the biennium 1992-1993 in reviewing its statistical methodologies, including, in particular, the preparation of the fifth edition of the Balance of Payments Manual. A meeting of experts was convened in March 1992 to review a draft of the Balance of Payments Manual and work is proceeding to finalize the Manual by early 1993. A companion volume, A Guide to the Compilation of Balance of Payments, has been prepared in draft form and has been circulated to all member countries for comments.

91. The IMF study on the measurement of international capital flows, a follow-up to the study on the statistical discrepancy in world current account balances (the Esteva report), which was published in 1987, was completed in late 1991 (the Godeaux report) and was scheduled for publication in late 1992.

9. Prices, including the International Comparison Programme

UNSTAT

92. For a summary of the plans of UNSTAT in this area, see report of the Secretary-General on developments in the International Comparison Programme (ICP) and other related international comparison issues (E/CN.3/1993/11).

ESCAP

93. The work on the International Comparison Project will continue to be supported.

UNCTAD

94. Efforts to improve the trade deflator system will continue, in particular with regard to manufactures originating in the developing countries. The Commodity Price Bulletin, which is at present limited to primary commodities, will be enlarged to include energy prices as well as manufactured goods prices.

ILO

95. In the Statistical Services and Methods series, work will start on a volume covering the ILO October inquiry on occupational wages and hours of work and retail food prices.

World Bank

96. The Bank will work closely with member countries in promoting ICP-related work as an integral part of the statistical work on prices and national accounts in member countries.

10. Industrial property

WIPO

97. WIPO will continue to collect and publish statistics on industrial property, by country and in accordance with the relevant international industrial property classification systems administered by WIPO. The statistics relate to patents, utility models, trademarks and service marks, industrial designs, plant varieties and micro-organisms. These statistics are published in the following annual publications:

(a) Industrial Property Statistics - Publication A. An abridged version of the final statistics, concerning all types of industrial property rights; it is issued approximately four months before Publication B;

(b) Industrial Property Statistics - Publication B (Part I). The final statistics concerning patents;

(c) Industrial Property Statistics - Publication B (Part II). The final statistics concerning trademarks and service marks, utility models, industrial designs, varieties of plants and micro-organisms.

11. Science and technology

UNESCO

98. For a summary of the future plans of UNESCO in this area, see paragraph 32 above.

12. National accounts

UNSTAT

99. For a summary of the plans of UNSTAT in this area, see report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts on the revision of the System of National Accounts (SNA) (E/CN.3/1993/4) and reports of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the revised SNA (E/CN.3/1993/6) and on environment statistics (E/CN.3/1993/13).

ECE

100. The development of statistics of hidden and informal economic activities inside the production boundary of national accounts are currently envisaged to be given high priority.

ESCAP

101. Adequate attention will be given to the development of natural resources and environmental accounting during the plan period.

ECLAC

102.The planned evaluation of the implementation of the revised SNA will not be carried out since the programme devoted to support the implementation of the revised SNA has been considerably delayed. The revised SNA will be approved in February 1993; few countries of the region will be able to adopt it starting from that year. ECLAC will provide maximum support to this task in all the areas under its scope of capabilities.

ILO

103. For a summary of the plans of ILO in this area, see note by the International Labour Office concerning statistics of employment in the informal sector (E/CN.3/1993/5). ILO will also establish special databases which will be used to provide information about certain labour issues, for example, informal sector employment.

World Bank

104. Methodological work related to the improvement of the international comparability of gross national product (GNP) estimates will be pursued. This will include work related to the possible use of ICP data. The conversion of

estimates of national income based on the System of Balances of the National Economy (MPS) to SNA aggregates will also be pursued. Experiments with environmentally adjusted national accounts will be continued through country case-studies.

IMF

105. The Fund will continue to be closely involved in the successful conclusion of the revision of the SNA, in close collaboration with UNSTAT, EUROSTAT, the World Bank and OECD. As a member of the Intersecretariat Working Group on the Revision of the SNA, IMF will participate actively in the final round of expert group meetings and the subsequent review meetings. The Fund will contribute two chapters to the revised SNA, on financial accounts and on external sector accounts, as well as two appendices, on the links between government finance statistics and the SNA and between balance-of-payments statistics and the SNA, which will be submitted to the Statistical Commission at its twenty-seventh session, in 1993.

13. Other economic statistics

ECA

106. The Commission's main activities in economic statistics will involve the preparation of national series data and technical publications on national accounts, industry, international trade and industry and their distribution to member States and other users.

C. Other statistics

1. Environment

UNSTAT

107. For a summary of the plans of UNSTAT in this area, see report of the Secretary-General on environment statistics (E/CN.3/1993/13).

ECE

108. The Conference continued to devote much of the resources at its disposal to environment and natural resource statistics.

ESCAP

109. Some reorientation will be introduced in the subprogramme to give attention to the priority statistical needs of the work programme relating to environment and sustainable development. In view of the growing concern about the depletion of natural resources in the region, special attention will be paid to environment statistics, including concepts, definitions,

classifications and data-collection methodologies. Adequate attention will also be given to the development of natural resources and environmental accounting during the plan period.

ECA

110. The Commission's activities in the area of environment statistics will include the publication of an African compendium on environment statistics, technical publications and guidelines on concepts, definitions and classifications and environmental accounting.

ESCWA

111. A programme for the development of environment statistics in the ESCWA region will be prepared for 1994-1995, including an expert group meeting on environment statistics in the ESCWA region.

World Bank

112. Statistical work on environmental data will be pursued in two major directions. Experiments with environmentally adjusted national accounts will be continued through country case-studies. At the same time, the Bank will identify and collect appropriate environmental indicators for use in the context of operational and policy discussions with member countries, particularly the Bank's new member countries.

2. Statistical capacity-building and training

UNSTAT

113. For the future plans of UNSTAT in this area, see report of the Secretary-General on technical cooperation in statistics (E/CN.3/1993/17), joint reports of the Secretary-General and the World Bank on progress made in the National Household Survey Capability Programme (NHSCP), the Social Dimensions of Adjustment (SDA) Programme and the Living Standards Measurement Study (LSMS) (E/CN.3/1993/18) and on issues relating to the National Household Survey Capability Programme (NHSCP), the Social Dimensions of Adjustment (SDA) Programme and the Living Standards Measurement Study (LSMS) (E/CN.3/1993/19) and report of the Secretary-General on the programme to monitor the achievement of social goals in the 1990s and related methodological work (E/CN.3/1993/20).

ECE

114. The important socio-economic changes in Central and Eastern European countries and the former USSR have continued to play a major role in the orientation of the work programme of the Commission in the field of statistics.

ESCAP

115. A basic strategy in the statistics subprogramme for the biennium 1992-1993 will continue to be to assist member countries in strengthening and consolidating their statistical capacity. Owing to the heterogeneity of the region, more careful attention will need to be given to the design of technical activities of interest to groups of countries identified by their statistical development needs, priorities and level of sophistication of statistical applications.

116. The theme of human resources development will continue to be integrated into the subprogramme's activities, in conjunction with the work of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific. Issues relating to the management of statistical services will receive heightened attention during the 1992-1993 plan period.

117. The secretariat's work on government sector computerization in the biennium 1992-1993 will be to continue to address the underlying policy and management issues and assist in the establishment of the requisite coherent, and complementary, organizational and technical infrastructures, emphasizing human resources development and information on poverty alleviation. At the regional level, it is envisaged that ESCAP will assume the role of focal point for the transfer between countries of the experience gained and the methodologies developed in public sector computerization, particularly through the organization of regional workshops and national multiplier courses, and the publication of a government computerization newsletter.

ECLAC

118. The Commission will collaborate with member countries in strengthening the National Household Survey Capability Programme (NHSCP) undertaken by UNSTAT.

119. The recent creation of CESD-Madrid (Centro Europeo de Formacion de Estadisticos de los Paises en vias de Desarrollo), sponsored by EUROSTAT, and specially by the National Statistical Institute of Spain, implies a major activity. During 1992, 11 important short-term courses, seminars and workshops were executed. ECLAC is currently cooperating with this activity to the extent that resources are available. The present scope of the programme will continue until 1995, and priorities are being discussed with the Directors of Statistics of the Latin American countries. Thus, it is expected that in 1993 the 1992 programme can be maintained and possibly expanded. Also during 1992-1993, the project "Indicators for social policy formulation in Latin America and the Caribbean" will be executed.

ECA

120. One of the main activities in the area of general aspects of coordination and organization will be advisory missions to member States on statistical organization and on the development and maintenance of national statistical databases.

121. The main activities in national accounts and economic statistics will involve:

(a) Servicing of seminars, workshops and working groups in the fields of national accounts, international trade and industry;

(b) Advisory missions to member States on improving the quality, coverage and methodology of their basic economic statistics and national accounts needed for development policy formulation and planning, and on reducing the data gaps and time lags.

122. Advisory missions will be carried out to member States on the planning, organization and conduct of population and housing censuses, household surveys and development of civil registration systems and vital statistics collection and for establishing or improving environment statistics.

123. The main activities in the area of general aspects of coordination and organization during the period 1992-1993 will include:

(a) The preparation and servicing of the seventh session of the Joint Conference of African Planners, Statisticians and Demographers, the eighth meeting of Directors of Centres participating in the Statistical Training Programme for Africa (STPA) and workshops on statistical computing and development of statistical databases;

(b) Overall monitoring of the implementation of the Addis Ababa Plan of Action for statistical development in Africa in the 1990s, including provision of assistance to countries in their statistical assessment;

(c) Assistance in the organization of the meetings of the Co-ordinating Committee on African Statistical Development (CASD).

ESCWA

124. The main activities planned include the following:

(a) A regional workshop on the revised SNA will be conducted in 1993 or 1994 for officials responsible for estimating the national accounts of ESCWA member States;

(b) A regional training workshop on industrial statistics is planned in 1993 in connection with the World Programme of Industrial Statistics;

(c) A regional seminar on vital registration and statistics is scheduled in 1993 for officials responsible for registration and compilation of vital statistics in the region;

(d) Support will be given to technical assistance activities in national accounts and economic statistics, in data processing and in household surveys;

(e) A regional workshop on uses of statistical software on personal computers in various statistical areas is planned to be conducted in 1994;

(f) In the context of preparations for the year 2000 round of population and housing censuses, a regional seminar is envisaged to be held in 1995 to review the progress made in the previous 1990 round and to discuss emerging issues in this field;

(g) The intergovernmental meetings of heads of central statistical organizations will be held once every two years, effective in 1993, to review the ESCWA statistical programme and to establish its main orientation.

ILO

125. ILO intends to develop its capacity for establishing an advanced and gradually self-financing annual training programme in labour statistics in alternate languages. To this end, a training manual relating to all labour statistics subjects will be prepared on the basis of existing manuals as well as on the basis of lecture materials that will be prepared for the courses. For each subject it will cover measurement objectives and uses, concepts and definitions, survey methodology and questionnaire design, field operations and data collected, processing, estimations, evaluation and production. The material will include case-studies, worked out examples and specifications of electronic data processing.

FAO

126. FAO will continue to cooperate with the United Nations National Household Survey Capability Programme (NHSCP) on the collection of food and agricultural data through household surveys and with the World Bank on alternative survey approaches for obtaining timely and reliable estimates of food production, especially in countries of sub-Saharan Africa.

ICAO

127. The ninth session of the ICAO Statistics Division (a representative body of member States) will be convened in 1995. The planning and organization of the session will commence some 18 to 20 months prior to its convening.

WHO

128. In its attempt to enhance national capability to produce pertinent, timely and useful health information, WHO will convene an expert committee on national information support for public health action in 1993. Efforts will be made to support the development of national health information systems for the formulation of national health policies, strategies and programmes, programme implementation and their monitoring and evaluation.

World Bank

129. The two major Bank initiatives in this area, the Living Standards Measurement Study (LSMS) and the Social Dimensions of Adjustment (SDA) Programme will be pursued and expanded to cover additional countries. It is anticipated that SDA will be implemented in all of the 30 sub-Saharan African countries that have joined the project. The LSMS will focus on enhancing the capacity of member countries, especially in Eastern Europe, to carry out household surveys by strengthening their institutional capacity.

130. In the context of strengthening the general statistical capacity of sub-Saharan African countries, the Bank will work in close collaboration with other agencies, ECA and EUROSTAT, in particular, for medium-term development of national capacities. It will put in place arrangements that promote more effective delivery of external technical inputs and promote the development of statistical services that are demand-oriented and geared to the generation of policy-relevant data.

131. Another area in which the Bank will play an active role is that of implementation of the revised SNA through technical cooperation. The strengthening of national capabilities in recording, compiling and reporting external-debt data will receive high priority. In consultation with other agencies, the Bank will provide appropriate support to its newer member countries in Eastern and Central Europe, including the secession States of the former Soviet Union.

IMF

132. A significant increase in technical cooperation in statistics in the programme period is planned by the Statistics Department of the Fund; it is expected that about 30 per cent of the Department's economist staff resources will be devoted to this activity. The Fund's technical assistance centres mostly on improving the statistical collection capabilities and methodological practices of the developing countries. Technical assistance is provided in specific areas of macroeconomic statistics, concentrating on balance of payments and monetary, fiscal and real sector statistics, but also addresses multiple problems within a consistent macroeconomic framework and the development of a sound institutional structure. The Fund will extend its programme of long-term technical assistance involving the placement of resident advisers or the use of consultants based at Fund headquarters. In setting technical assistance priorities, emphasis will be given to countries in which the statistical base is weak or where the data-collection and reporting processes in the main fields of economic statistics are in need of review. Particular attention will be given to countries that have approached the Fund with requests for the use of its financial resources. The Statistics Department's technical assistance programme will also continue to include training in the compilation of balance of payments and monetary and government finance statistics through courses offered at the IMF Institute and through regional training programmes. As in the past, a few officials will receive training in the Statistics Department.

UPU

133. One of the statistical activities of UPU is to determine the direction and volume of technical assistance to UPU member countries. Expert missions and study fellowships relating to statistics have been a usual part of the technical assistance calendar, and it is expected that this will continue to be so.

UNIDO

134. Plans include the further expansion of the UNIDO-developed software package (NISP), which is designed to be installed in developing countries through UNIDO technical cooperation projects. There will be increased emphasis on technical cooperation, to assist developing countries in areas of data processing, storage and retrieval in connection with industrial censuses, surveys, data analysis and related activities.

EUROSTAT

135. In association with other statistical organizations, as appropriate, EUROSTAT will continue its work in technical cooperation with developing and transition countries. The training of statisticians will be an essential cornerstone of this cooperation.

IASI

136. According to the present organization of the Institute, its activities for the period 1992-1995 will be oriented towards complementing the work carried out by other organizations concerning the development of governmental statistics in the American region and promoting the development of academic and professional statistical activities, through scientific publications and technical meetings.

137. Regarding governmental statistics, the Institute will cooperate with the national statistical offices of the American region, particularly in the activities related to the meetings of the heads of said offices. At the same time, cooperation with FAO and other organizations of the United Nations family will continue in the fields of censuses and agricultural statistics.

138. A seminar every second year will be organized within the framework of the series of seminars on applied statistics, initiated in Mar del Plata, Argentina, in 1987 (a second seminar was held in Santiago, Chile, in 1989, and a third in Mexico, in 1991). In continuation of this series, a seminar on biostatistics, health and environment is scheduled to be held in Sao Paulo, Brazil, in 1993. The possibility of conducting a seminar in Colombia in 1995 on applications of statistics in agriculture is being explored. A selection of the papers discussed at these seminars is published in the journal of the Institute.

139. The Institute co-sponsors additional technical meetings, such as the First Ibero-American Congress on Statistics and Operations Research, organized by the Spanish Society of Statistics and Operations Research (Caceres, Spain, 1992) and the Fifth Latin American Congress on Probability and Mathematical Statistics, organized by the Bernoulli Society for Mathematical Statistics and Probability (Sao Paulo, Brazil, 1993).

3. Other statistics, n.e.c

ESCAP

140. The statistical implications of the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade will be addressed. Among the newer areas of work will be the development of small areas statistics.

ECA

141. One of the main activities in the area of general aspects of coordination and organization will be the publication of the African Statistical Yearbook, African Socio-economic Indicators and other current technical publications such as Integrated Social, Demographic, Environmental and Economic Data, Statistical Newsletter, Directory of African Statisticians and Directory of EDP Centres and Experts in Africa.

ESCWA

142. Basic statistics in the economic and social areas of the ESCWA region will be disseminated through recurrent statistical publications and possibly through other machine-readable forms. The Statistics Division will focus its activities in 1994-1995 on serving other substantive divisions in ESCWA through the establishment of statistical databases on various areas of interest to ESCWA.

ILO

143. Following a feasibility study carried out during 1992-1993, a system will be implemented to catalogue the contents of the major statistical publications in the ILO library. This new tool will enable ILO to identify and indicate precisely the sources of national statistics and enhance its capability to respond to requests for statistical series on topics that are not covered by the Bureau of Statistics databases.

UNESCO

144. Improvement in the dissemination of statistical data and publications will concern the UNESCO Statistical Yearbook and other major publications, and will be achieved by making data from the UNESCO Statistical Data Bank available in either machine-readable format or through direct access to the data bank.

EUROSTAT

145. The signing of the treaty on European union has many implications on the work of EUROSTAT. In particular, the commitment towards a single currency and the creation of a European Central Bank implies that systems should be set up in order to monitor developments in economic and monetary statistics on a comparable basis. The treaty also extends the competence of the Community to several new aspects of economic and social life, such as public health, training and education, culture and consumer protection. Preparations are being made to provide relevant and comparable data in these areas. In addition, 11 of the member States decided to amplify the social dimension in the construction of the Community. This decision will involve the development of improved systems in a number of areas, including, for example, working conditions, social protection and household incomes.

146. The reform of two major areas of Community funding, the Common Agricultural Policy and the structural funds, will necessitate improved monitoring systems for agricultural and regional statistics, respectively.

II. SUMMARY OF PLANS IN THREE FUNCTIONAL AREAS

A. Classifications

UNSTAT

147. For a summary of UNSTAT plans in this area, see reports of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities, Revision 3 (ISIC, Rev.3) and the Provisional Central Product Classification (CPC) (E/CN.3/1993/7) and on the general development and integration of methodological work (E/CN.3/1993/15) and the joint report of the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade on the future relationship between the SITC and the HS (E/CN.3/1993/15/Add.1).

ECLAC

148. A main objective of the Commission will be to enhance data comparability by using the latest international classifications, such as SITC, Rev.3, ISIC, Rev.3, the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System (HS) and the Provisional Central Product Classification (CPC).

ILO

149. For a summary of ILO plans in this area, see report of the International Labour Office on the Revision of the International Classification of Status in Employment (ICSE) (E/CN.3/1993/8).

UNESCO

150. Cooperation with the United Nations system and other international organizations will be pursued, particularly in areas related to the consolidation of classification systems.

WHO

151. With the introduction of the Tenth Revision of the International Classification of Diseases (ICD-10) in January 1993, WHO will provide advice, guidelines and training courses in its use to member States, and technical support for the preparation of national language versions. Specialists and non-governmental organizations will be supported in preparing special applications based on the ICD-10. Member States will be supported in the application of the International Classification of Impairments, Disabilities and Handicaps (ICIDH), which will be revised in 1993.

B. Coordination

ECE

152. The results of the annual reviews undertaken by the Conference of European Statisticians at its plenary sessions are reflected in changes concerning the structure and content of programme elements in individual fields of statistics, their priorities, and the role the Conference intends to play in regional statistical cooperation. Regional statistical cooperation and all matters affecting the organization and operation of statistical services were integrated into a single subprogramme with the work directly supervised by heads of national statistical offices in the ECE region.

ESCAP

153. Some reorientation will be introduced in the subprogramme to give attention to the priority statistical needs of the work programme relating to regional economic cooperation.

UNCTAD

154. UNCTAD will continue to work in close collaboration with UNSTAT and international agencies in refining and updating statistical methodologies and harmonizing economic classifications.

UNESCO

155. Cooperation will take place with UNSTAT, with UNESCO providing input for subject areas coming within its fields of competence, as well as for the statistical component of the World Decade for Cultural Development. In accordance with the policy of the ACC Subcommittee on Statistical Activities concerning the non-duplication of data collection within the system, the

regular exchange of data between UNESCO, the United Nations and other specialized agencies will be continued. Similarly, UNESCO will provide the statistical input to the United Nations programme on prospective studies. Finally, cooperation with governmental and non-governmental organizations will be maintained with a view to promoting the international collection and comparability of statistics relating to their respective fields of competence.

ICAO

156. Efforts towards further coordination and harmonization of aviation statistics work at the international and regional levels will be intensified.

WHO

157. To enhance global support for health information development for the formulation, implementation and coordination of international health policies and strategies, cooperation and coordination will be maintained and strengthened with other agencies in all fields of statistical activities. These will include the review and development of health indicators, the collection, compilation and dissemination of information for intersectoral purposes and the strengthening of national systems for vital statistics and civil registration.

EUROSTAT

158. The 1993-1997 Statistical Programme of the European Communities was drawn up in association with the member States of the European Free Trade Association (EFTA). About 80 per cent of the programme is a joint programme in respect of the European Economic Area and relates to all 19 countries in this union.

159. The joint secretariat of OECD, ECE and EUROSTAT, which was set up after the twenty-sixth session of the Statistical Commission, in 1991, will continue to meet on an annual basis to review cooperation procedures, particularly with a view to avoiding duplication of work.

C. Technological developments and databases

ECE

160. A new subprogramme on statistical information technology was created and it is expected that the issues of a harmonized design and the development of statistical databases with a view to a facilitated electronic data interchange will probably occupy the forefront of the work in this field.

ECA

161. The Directory of EDP Centres and Experts in Africa will be published.

ESCAP

162. Efforts will be made to introduce a new dissemination service through the provision of statistics on diskettes for microcomputers and through other media, including on-line data access. An ESCAP-wide statistical database providing access to the United Nations databases at New York and Geneva, other international agencies and databases of interested member countries will be completed, given the availability of resources.

ECLAC

163. A main objective to be pursued will be to develop integrated statistical databases for mainframe as well as microcomputers.

UNCTAD

164. Work is under way to link the comprehensive Economic Time Series to the databases of other international agencies to facilitate access and exchange of data. Improved dissemination of data compiled by UNCTAD will be a major activity. A working group has been established to review policies in the field of office automation and to make recommendations to the Secretary-General of UNCTAD on related managerial decisions. The installation of a local area network (LAN) with connection to the mainframe is in progress.

UNCHS

165. In the area of statistical database development, the Centre will revise HSDB.stat release 2.0, taking into account the newest user interface and database technologies. The new database software will also have improved file down-loading capabilities and footnote handling. The work on HSDB.stat release 3.0 should be finalized by the end of 1993. Around the same time, software development for UNCHS-CitiBase will have reached the stage of beta-version testing.

ILO

166. Modernization of data-collection and dissemination systems. The main statistical database, LABORSTA, originally established in 1979, needs to be updated in order to become more user-friendly and more easily accessible. These databases, as well as all the relevant computer applications, need to be converted to the most recent version of the Statistical Analysis System (SAS), which has evolved from a purely statistical software in a database management system. Similarly, the methodological information currently stored for the Statistical Sources and Methods series should be converted from a data bank to a database, which could be used for dissemination of the texts.

FAO

167. Development of a personal computer-based data processing system will be continued.

World Bank

168. Improved dissemination of data compiled by the Bank to member Governments will be a major activity. Data will be made available in a variety of forms, including CD-ROMS. For meeting the internal needs of the Bank staff, enhanced capacities will be put in place whereby staff will be able to access mainframe data, including metadata from linked personal computers now available to almost all Bank staff.

IMF

169. In the area of data communications with member countries, the Fund will continue its efforts to improve data reporting to the Fund via electronic data links. Efforts are under way to establish appropriate data interchange standards. Attention will be given to coordinating demands for data from member countries, both at the institutional level and in conjunction with other organizations, to facilitate reporting and avoid duplicative data reporting by member countries.

UPU

170. Given the general demand on the part of UPU member countries, it has been decided to install a computerized database at UPU headquarters. A relational database using ORACLE/SQL is proposed to be established on the recently acquired VAX 4000-200 computer system. This base will contain information on various postal statistics and indicators and will be open to the outside. The database is expected to be operational during the course of 1993.

GATT

171. A recent initiative is the development of GETS (GATT's Economic Time Series). The purpose of GETS is to give GATT staff easy access to a number of selected statistical time series most commonly used in their everyday work. At present, accessing data from IMF, the World Bank, ECE, UNCTAD, EUROSTAT, UNSTAT and other sources imply for the user familiarity with the different databases in terms of format, extraction and manipulation. In other words, one expects a user to master the many different softwares, acquire knowledge of the content of various databases and have the ability to link properly the extracted data from different sources. GETS proposes to store the most relevant information in a uniform format and to provide users with a flexible generalized statistical programme for calculating, tabulating and charting. In addition, a user's manual, including methodological notes on sources and methods, is to be made available for each series stored in GETS.

III. POINTS FOR DISCUSSION

172. The Commission may wish to comment on (a) the plans in the various subject areas by the international organizations during the period under review and (b) the usefulness of the present report structured on a subject-matter basis. The Commission may also wish to provide additional guidance on the preferred coverage and focus of this report for the future, to better meet the needs of the Commission.

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15 (a) of the provisional agenda*

PROGRAMME QUESTIONS: PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE AND IMPLEMENTATION

Updated information on the work of the Statistical Division of the United Nations Secretariat

Report of the Secretary-General

SUMMARY

The purpose of the present report is to provide updated information on agenda items where significant developments have taken place since the reports for the Statistical Commission were completed. The affected agenda items are as follows: 4 (a), System of National Accounts (SNA); 7, Service statistics; 8, Price statistics; 9 (b), Civil registration and vital statistics; 9 (c), Statistics on special population groups; 10, Environment statistics; 12 (a), General development and integration of methodological work; 13 (b), National Household Survey Capability Programme (NHSCP); and 13 (c), Social Dimensions of Adjustment (SDA) Programme and the Living Standards Measurement Study (LSMS).

* E/CN.3/1993/1.

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INTRODUCTION

1. The purpose of the present report is to provide updated information on those agenda items in respect of which significant developments have taken place since the completion of the substantive reports for those items.

I. SYSTEM OF NATIONAL ACCOUNTS (SNA)

(Item 4 (a))

2. As indicated in the report on the revision of the SNA (E/CN.3/1993/4), the Interregional Seminar on the Revision of the SNA was held at Aguascalientes, Mexico, from 5 to 9 October 1992. The Seminar was organized by the Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts (ISWGNA), sponsored by the Department of Economic and Social Development of the United Nations Secretariat, and hosted by the Mexican Statistical Institute. Participants from a wide variety of countries from all regions of the world contributed positive and constructive comments on substantive, implementation and future research issues as well as on the process for refining and updating the SNA in the future. They considered the revised SNA a vast improvement over its 1968 predecessor, and congratulated the authors, members of the various expert groups and ISWGNA for this very complex technical accomplishment. The report of the Seminar was reviewed and approved by the participants on the last day of the Seminar and will be made available to the Commission as a background document.

3. The Sixth Expert Group Meeting on SNA Coordination met at Aguascalientes for two days (2-3 October 1992) prior to the Interregional Seminar and for one day (10 October 1992) after the Seminar, on both occasions concerning the revision of the SNA. At the 1st meeting the experts were brought up to date on the organizational and substantive work done on the revision of the SNA since the Fifth Expert Group Meeting on SNA Coordination, held at Harare in April 1991. Discussion took place on the conduct of the Seminar to be held the following week, particularly regarding the experts' presentation of agenda items. At the 2nd meeting there was a round-table presentation of the experts' views on the deliberations and results of the Seminar. There was general agreement that the Seminar had been a success. There was also general agreement on what the contentious technical issues were. Altogether, the discussion provided valuable input to ISWGNA for the preparation of a background document on technical issues to be submitted to the Statistical Commission in February 1993 (see para. 4 below).

4. ISWGNA met several times before, during and after the Interregional Seminar on the Revision of the SNA to discuss both organizational and substantive issues as well as documentation for the twenty-seventh session of the Statistical Commission. It was agreed that, in addition to the official documentation already indicated in the provisional agenda of the Commission (see E/CN.3/1993/1), a report on technical issues prepared by ISWGNA would be

submitted to the Commission as a background document (see para. 3 above). To prepare this report, ISWGNA held a working meeting in Paris from 14 to 16 December 1992 to review and discuss the written comments received on the draft revised SNA up to 15 November 1992, as well as the comments made at the Interregional Seminar and the Sixth Expert Group Meeting. ISWGNA report on technical issues presents the final recommendations of ISWGNA on all outstanding technical issues related to the revised SNA.

5. ISWGNA also held a senior policy-level meeting in Paris on 8 November 1992 to discuss issues related to the publication of the SNA in 1993 (target date, printing and publishing etc.) and the role of ISWGNA in the implementation of the SNA.

II. SERVICE STATISTICS

(Item 7)

6. Representatives of the Statistical Division of the United Nations Secretariat (UNSTAT) participated in the 7th meeting of the Voorburg Group on Service Statistics (19-23 October 1992), hosted by the Bureau of the Census of the United States. The agenda consisted of nine sessions. Four separate sessions dealt with the questions of prices and quantities in services, international trade in services, the central product classification, and country experiences with pilot surveys; another four sessions were concerned with the preparation, testing and evaluation of model surveys of audiovisual services, telecommunications, insurance services and computer services; and one session was concerned with the host country's experience in service statistics. The 1992 meeting emphasized the importance of constructing and implementing a model survey to broaden the Group's experience with issues concerning measurement, classification and data collection. In this connection, the Group is in the process of establishing mechanisms to ensure that survey experiences will be taken into consideration for future revisions of the provisional Central Product Classification.

III. PRICE STATISTICS

(Item 8)

7. The Workshop on ESCAP Regional Specifications for Phase VI, organized by the Statistics Division of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), was held at Beijing from 21 to 25 September 1992. The Workshop was funded by the Asian Development Bank. Twenty-nine representatives from the following 18 members and associate members of ESCAP, which are participating in phase VI of the International Comparison Programme (ICP), attended the Workshop: Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, Fiji, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Islamic Republic of Iran, Japan, Nepal, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Viet Nam. Representatives of UNSTAT, the World Bank, the European Centre for

World-wide Cost of Living Comparisons (EuroCost) and the Asian Development Bank also attended.

8. The Workshop discussed and finalized lists of specifications for data collection in the ESCAP region. The Workshop also agreed to a time-schedule for ESCAP regional comparison. Briefly, the plan calls for ICP participating countries to submit to the ESCAP secretariat by March 1994, price data and by July 1994, expenditure data required for processing. The Workshop suggested that a meeting be convened to review preliminary results in September 1994, and that final results be completed by the end of that year.

9. A consultation between the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) secretariat and the countries and international organizations participating and interested in the European Comparison Programme (ECP) was held in Vienna from 9 to 13 November 1992. The purpose of the consultation was to review the preliminary results of the 1990 regional exercise and to discuss methodological and organizational issues relating to the next phase of the Group II comparison. Countries in the 1990 Group II comparison were asked to give their first impressions on the preliminary results distributed at the meeting. Participants considered the overall results satisfactory; however, they decided to check the detailed data with Austria, on a bilateral basis between November 1992 and January 1993, before finalizing the Group II and European comparison results for 1990. Participants agreed on the structure and coverage of the report on the 1990 exercise. It was proposed to include in the report an annex on sources and methods of providing basic data, and countries agreed to submit additional information according to a questionnaire adopted at the consultation.

10. Discussing future work, the following countries represented at the consultation expressed their intention to join the 1993 round: Bulgaria, Croatia, Russian Federation, Slovakia and Slovenia. However, the country composition of the next Group II comparison is still an open issue. Austria will still be the coordinator of Group II in the 1993 comparison if the number of participating countries remains similar to what has been announced so far. At the consultation, the timetable of the 1993 regional comparison was adopted, setting June 1995 as the deadline to obtain numerical results.

11. The Handbook of the International Comparison Programme (ST/ESA/STAT/SER.F/62) was issued in English in November 1992. Publication of this basic manual of ICP in other languages is expected shortly.

12. The expert group meeting on the implementation of phase VI of ICP, referred to in paragraph 50 of document E/CN.3/1993/11, was held from 27 to 29 January 1993. The discussions at the meeting helped organizers at the regional and global levels to evaluate how well the preconditions of conducting a global comparison for 1993 were met and to determine what actions needed to be taken to achieve this goal. The main conclusions of the meeting will be presented to the Commission in a separate background paper.

IV. CIVIL REGISTRATION AND VITAL STATISTICS

(Item 9 (b))

13. In late 1992, as part of the International Programme for Accelerating the Improvement of Vital Statistics and Civil Registration Systems, missions were carried out to the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) and the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) to coordinate efforts and make technical and administrative arrangements for a possible workshop in each region in 1993. The close cooperation and involvement of the Statistical Divisions of ESCWA and ECA was sought for the implementation of the workshops. During the mission, countries were identified as potential participants. The provisional agendas, the technical papers to be presented for discussion and their potential authors, and the budgets were also drawn up.

14. Further, UNSTAT has issued the "Guidelines for a review and assessment of the national civil registration and vital statistics systems" in Arabic and French so as to assist participating countries in the preparation of their country reports for the workshop.

V. STATISTICS ON SPECIAL POPULATION GROUPS

(Item 9 (c))

15. An International Workshop on the Development and Dissemination of Statistics on Persons with Disabilities was organized by UNSTAT and Statistics Canada in Ottawa from 13 to 16 October 1992. The Workshop, which was conducted in French and English, provided a forum for discussion of the national work undertaken in this area by 10 countries and considered the need for international recommendations on disability statistics. It also considered the concerns of survey directors and data users in both government offices and research centres regarding the need for comparability and quality of disability data. The report of the workshop will be submitted as a background paper to the planned Expert Group Meeting on Disability Statistics to be held in 1993, subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources for funding. The meeting is likely to take place in late 1993 in collaboration with the Central Bureau of Statistics of the Netherlands.

16. The Swedish International Development Authority (SIDA) has provided funds to UNSTAT for one year in order to prepare an efficient and standardized data collection procedure for national and international monitoring and evaluation of the World Health Organization (WHO) Community-based Rehabilitation Programmes. The activities are to be carried out in 1992 and 1993 in collaboration with WHO and will result in the production of an instruction manual for the development of survey modules covering community-based rehabilitation activities.

17. UNSTAT has coordinated disability statistics within the United Nations in a number of ways. It is collaborating with WHO in the revision of the International Classification of Impairments, Disabilities and Handicaps (ICIDH).

18. The Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat, in cooperation with UNSTAT, launched the Fourth United Nations Crime Survey of Crime Trends and Criminal Justice Systems in September 1992. UNSTAT supported the survey by providing the statistical design of the questionnaire and by collecting replies from national statistical offices. Data collected will be sorted in the United Nations Criminal Justice Information Network (UNCJIN) and presented in international statistical publications.

19. A Statistical Chart on Family, funded by the International Year of the Family Voluntary Fund, is in preparation by UNSTAT.

VI. ENVIRONMENT STATISTICS

(Item 10)

20. The United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, in its Agenda 21, requested UNSTAT to make available to all member States the methodologies contained in the SNA Handbook on Integrated Environmental and Economic Accounting and to assist member States in implementing those methodologies at the earliest possible date. The harmonized development of a suitable set of sustainable development indicators by the United Nations system and other relevant international organizations was also recommended. UNSTAT was specifically requested to pursue the development of those indicators. The Conference also recommended that the activities related to development data of agencies and institutions of the United Nations system be coordinated by a "Development Watch", which would be equivalent and complementary to the United Nations Environment Programme's Earthwatch.

21. The 2nd meeting of the Intersecretariat Working Group on Environmental Data was convened at Geneva on 21 May 1992 under the auspices of the Economic Commission for Europe. It was decided that the work done for the Group by the Statistical Office of the European Communities (EUROSTAT), that is, the survey carried out to compile information on international environmental databases, would be continued and that the ECE secretariat would provide a comprehensive assessment of this experience at the next meeting of the Working Group.

22. The Working Group on International Statistical Programmes and Coordination, at its fifteenth session, requested UNSTAT to convene a task force on environment statistics. To this end, UNSTAT circulated a questionnaire to explore the actual and planned involvement of the different international organizations in the fields of environmental statistics and accounting. The results of the survey are expected to facilitate the assessment of problems and opportunities for better coordination and cooperation by the task force.

23. In preparation for the 3rd meeting of the Intergovernmental Working Group on the Advancement of Environment Statistics, held at Wiesbaden, Germany, from 14 to 18 December 1992, UNSTAT had prepared analyses of the relationship between environment statistics and environmental accounting. A tentative list of environmental indicators and indicators of sustainable development was also discussed at the meeting.

VII. GENERAL DEVELOPMENT AND INTEGRATION OF METHODOLOGICAL WORK

(Item 12 (a))

24. A principal priority has been assigned to improving the flow from all countries to UNSTAT of detailed international trade statistics by commodity and partner country in machine-readable and/or printed form. Significant amounts of statistics appear to be available in countries but do not reach UNSTAT for inclusion in the trade statistics database. A plan for improving the flow of data has been developed involving efforts by UNSTAT, the regional commissions and the international organizations that are major users of international trade statistics.

VIII. NATIONAL HOUSEHOLD SURVEY CAPABILITY PROGRAMME (NHSCP) AND SOCIAL DIMENSIONS OF ADJUSTMENT (SDA) PROGRAMME AND THE LIVING STANDARDS MEASUREMENT STUDY (LSMS)

(Items 13 (b) and 13 (c))

25. The Council of Ministers of ESCWA, in resolution 181 (XVI) of 2 September 1992, requested the Executive Secretary to contact various United Nations, Arab and other international organizations with a view to mobilizing the necessary financial resources to ensure the continuity of the Commission's regional household survey project in the ESCWA countries.